

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of handling a pressurized water reactor fuel assembly which has a top nozzle and guide thimbles and divots, comprising:

supporting a tool having at least two alignment pins, a shaft, an arrangement of lock fingers, and an arrangement of finger tabs configured to handle the fuel assembly;

positioning the tool over a top of the fuel assembly;

lowering the tool onto the top of the fuel assembly such that the at least two alignment pins engage the top nozzle of the fuel assembly;

actuating a the shaft to lower lock fingers into the guide thimbles of the fuel assembly;

positioning the arrangement of lock fingers to a position in front of the divots of the guide thimble in the fuel assembly to be engaged;

engaging the arrangement of lock finger tabs into the divots of the guide thimble to an extended position; and

lifting the fuel assembly and the tool, wherein structural load of the lifted fuel assembly passes to the tool during the lifting of the fuel assembly through the lock fingers positioned in the divots of the guide thimble, the divots formed by swaging of the guide thimbles to guide thimble sleeves that attach the top nozzle of the fuel assembly to the guide thimbles.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: disengaging the tool from the fuel assembly.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the shaft is rotated to lower the lock fingers into the guide thimbles.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the actuating of the shaft to lower the lock fingers is performed by the shaft wherein the shaft is a mandrel shaft which allows a spring tension to be applied to the arrangement of lock fingers.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Cancelled).
9. (Cancelled).
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Cancelled).
13. (Cancelled).
14. (Cancelled).
15. (Cancelled).